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REORGANIZATION OF RAILROAD TRADE UNION;
INEFFICIENT USE OF LABOR

PURGE UNDER WAY IN RAILROAD TRADE UNION -- Bulletin de l'Association d'Etudes et d'Informations Politiques Internationales. No 25. 1 - 15 May 50

According to the official announcements by leaders of the Polish trade unions, the Polish workers are accepting enthusiastically and unanimously all orders from the trade unions. However, at times the Polish press echoes resistance on the part of locals. According to Zwiazkowiec for 2 April 1950, the regional conventions of railroad workers have revealed grave weaknesses in the work of the regional organizations. The new recommendations made to the Central Administration of Trade Unions indicate that a purge is under way. Already, in ten of the regional administrations, 80 percent of the officers are new agents. This clearly shows that even in the Railroad Workers' Trade Union, the most highly developed of all Polish unions, there is a tacit resistance against the government.

The same observation can be made with regard to the political indoctrination of labor unions by the Central Council of Trade Unions of Poland. This organization has been ordered to train about 120,000 agents during the current year. So far, progress has been very slow. Although the railroad labor unions were to establish 256 courses during the first quarter of 1950, so far, only 40 have been organized.

The official organ of the Central Council of Trade Unions deplores the fact that "among the metal workers of some large establishments (for example, those of Starachowice), full-scale organization has not yet begun."

The same paper comments unfavorably on the tendency in the labor unions of the blast furnace workers to offer membership to all workers, not only to activists and trustworthy persons. Actually, the Communist labor unions do not try to raise the level of the masses, but prefer to train a small number of agents who will blindly follow the party line.

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PROPOSE REORGANIZATION OF RAILROAD WORKERS -- Zwiaskowiec, No 14, 2 Apr 50

In preparation for the fourth national convention of delegates of the Railroad Workers' Trade Union, to take place 21 - 23 April 1950 in Warsaw, the locals have held plenary sessions to elect delegates to regional conventions and to evaluate the functioning of all the structural elements of the trade union organization. The regional conventions of delegates have revealed serious inadequacies in the work of the regional organizations. The latter have failed to maintain contact with the locals and to make use of the machinery for indoctrination. The conventions revealed that not only individuals but entire regional administrations had fallen into bureaucratic ways. As a result, ten new regional administrations were formed, with 80 percent of their membership consisting of new agents from the locals.

A serious structural defect is the subdivision of locals according to specialized trades. With several service divisions belonging to a local, some of them 100 kilometers apart, the influence of the local organization is small because not every workshop has a trade union cell.

The new by-laws to be presented at the National Convention will correct these defects. In the meantime, it is recommended that the Central Administration show more initiative and energy in the development of large-scale work competition, check on the correct application of premium pay systems, eliminate duplication of administrative functions, intensify political indoctrination programs among workers, and delegate more responsibility to locals.

VICE PRESIDENTS OF COAL MINES STILL LOAFING AFTER 3 YEARS -- Bulletin de l'Association d'Etudes et d'Informations Politiques Internationales, No 25, 1 - 15 May 50

In 1947, 87 outstanding Polish coal miners were appointed mine vice-presidents, because of their own merits or by the Communist Party for propaganda purposes. The Central Office of the Mining Industry has not yet placed these men in suitable positions. One solution of the problem of what to do with the men would be to send some to a 2-year course of technical study, to assign ten of them to enterprises, and to make 20 of them supervisors in mines. As for the rest, thus far no plans have been suggested. The government created the posts merely for propaganda purposes and without regard for the interests or capabilities of the workers involved.

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